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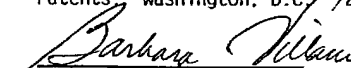
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date of Deposit: November 27, 2001

Applicant(s): E. NAKAZAWA et al

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Serial No. : Based on
PCT/JP01/02496


Barbara Villani

Filed : Herewith

For : SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AND
SERVER APPARATUS

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

Art Unit :
Examiner :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks

S I R :

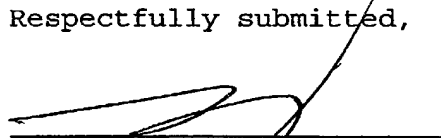
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1: Please insert the following as the first sentence:

--This application is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/JP01/02496 (published in English) filed March 27, 2001.--

A marked-up copy of page 1 is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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DESCRIPTION

SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AND SERVER APPARATUS

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Technical Field

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a settlement system at a virtual shop at which a commodity is purchased and a price for the commodity is paid in the virtual shop disposed on a network such as Internet, and a server apparatus for managing the settlement system.

Background Art

2. Description of the Related Art

With development of a network such as Internet, in a corporation in which a commodity is sold, a virtual shop (also called an electronic mall) for selling the commodity is opened on Internet, so that shopping can be performed via Internet.

On the other hand, it is remarkably popular to obtain a present for free on Internet, answer a quiz question, fill a questionnaire, or announce one's candidacy for a monitor regarding use of the commodity, that is to make an application for the present, quiz, questionnaire, monitor, or the like. Because one can participate in a lottery for free, and can sometimes win some prize in the lottery.

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